AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 2-4, 6-11, 14-24, 26-28, 31-36, 38-39, and 42-46 as follows:

1   1.   (Cancelled)

1   2.   (Currently Amended) A method, provided by an institutional telephone

2   system, of managing institutional telephone activity between a calling party and a called

3   party, wherein the calling party is an institutional party and the called party is a non-

4   institutional party, wherein the method comprises comprising:

5   providing an account for each the calling party, wherein the account comprises

6   calling party entitlements, at least some entitlements based on a the calling

7   party's class;

8   creating an institutional communication connection with a calling an institutional

9   terminal following initiation by the calling party, wherein each the

10   institutional communication connection comprises an external

11   communication request from the calling party that initiated the

12   institutional communication connection, the communication request

13   sufficient to establish communication between the calling party and the

14   called party;

15   identifying the calling party;

16   analyzing each the external communication request received from the calling

17   party to determine its called party parameters;

18   comparing the called party parameters to the calling party entitlements to

19   determine whether the calling party is entitled to communicate with the

20   called party and denying the external communication request if the

21   comparing returns a negative result; and

22   determining whether the calling party has an active account is active and denying

23   the external communication request if the determining returns a negative

24   result.

3

1   3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the method
2   further comprises ~~the step of~~ establishing the communication based on the comparing.

1   4.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the method
2   further comprises ~~the steps of~~:
3   placing the calling party on hold;
4   establishing communication with the called party;
5   calculating a rate to charge the called party for the communication;
6   announcing the rate to the called party;
7   prompting the called party for acceptance or refusal of the rate;
8   receiving a response from the called party; and
9   establishing communication between the calling party and the called party based
10   on the response.

1   5.   (Cancelled)

1   6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the comparing
2   comprises ~~the steps of~~:
3   identifying the ~~calling~~ institutional terminal; and
4   determining whether the calling party is entitled to use the ~~calling~~ institutional
5   terminal;
6   wherein the communication is denied if the determining returns a negative result.

1   7.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the
2   establishing comprises ~~the steps of~~:
3   initiating a second communication connection; and
4   bridging the institutional communication connection with the second
5   communication connection.

4

1 8.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the
2 establishing comprises ~~the steps of~~:
3   placing the calling party on hold;
4   initiating the connection with the called party;
5   detecting completion of the connection;
6   providing identification of the calling party to the called party;
7   prompting the called party for acceptance or refusal of communication with the
8   calling party; and
9   receiving a response from the called party to the prompting;
10 wherein the response determines whether the calling party and the called party are connected.

1 9.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the method
2 further comprises ~~the step of~~ providing the called party with an option to prohibit any future
3 calls from the calling party.

1 10.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the method
2 further comprises ~~the step of~~ providing the called party with an option to prohibit future calls
3 from ~~the~~ a location of the calling party.

1 11.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the method
2 further comprises ~~the step of~~ replaying a call origination message to the called party.

1 12.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the account
2 contains data representative of telephone numbers.

1 13.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the account
2 contains data representative of personal identities.

1 14.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the account
2 contains data indicating whether to record ~~the~~ a communication ~~by~~ from the calling party.

1 15.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the account
2 contains data indicating whether to record ~~the~~ a communication to the called party.

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1   16.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the account
2   contains data indicating whether to monitor ~~the~~ a communication ~~by~~ from the calling party.

1   17.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the account
2   contains data indicating whether to monitor the ~~calling party~~ institutional terminal.

1   18.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the account
2   contains data indicating whether to monitor ~~the~~ a communication to predetermined telephone
3   numbers.

1   19.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the account
2   contains data indicating whether to monitor ~~the~~ a communication to the called party.

1   20.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the account
2   contains data indicating ~~called parties~~ a called party to whom communications should be not
3   recorded.

1   21.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the method
2   further comprises ~~the step of:~~ providing administrative control to initiate recording of the
3   communication.

1   22.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the method
2   further comprises ~~the step of:~~ providing administrative control to initiate administrative
3   monitoring of the communication.

1   23.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the method
2   further comprises ~~the step of:~~ providing administrative control to terminate the
3   communication.

1   24.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the method
2   further comprises ~~the step of:~~ monitoring the communication for a fraud detection ~~events~~
3   event.

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1   25.   (Cancelled)

1   26.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the method

2 further comprises ~~the step of~~ storing, in the account, data representative of the

3 communication.

1   27.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the method

2 further comprises ~~the step of~~ storing ~~keywords~~ a keyword in the account.

1   28.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 27, wherein the method

2 further comprises ~~the step of~~ monitoring the communication for the ~~keywords~~ keyword.

1   29.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the

2 identifying comprises biometric voice verification.

1   30.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the

2 biometric voice verification occurs continuously during the communication.

1   31.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein the biometric

2 voice verification comprises ~~the steps of~~:

3   digitizing a first sample of the calling party;

4   storing the first sample;

5   digitizing a second sample of the calling party from the communication;

6   storing the second sample; and

7   comparing the first sample to the second sample for verifying identification of the

8   calling party.

1   32.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein the biometric

2 voice verification comprises ~~the steps of~~:

3   digitizing a first sample of the called party;

4   storing the first sample;

5   identifying the called party;

7

6   digitizing a second sample of the called party from the communication;

7   storing the second sample; and

8   comparing the first sample to the second sample second sample for verifying

9   identification of the called party.

1   33.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein the biometric

2 voice verification comprises the steps of:

3   identifying the called party;

4   digitizing a first sample of the calling party;

5   storing the first sample;

6   digitizing a second sample of the called party;

7   storing the second sample;

8   digitizing a third sample of the communication;

9   storing the third sample; and

10   comparing the first sample and the second sample to the third sample.

1   34.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein the

2 comparing detects an unauthorized parties party to the communication.

1   35.   (Currently Amended) A method, provided by an institutional telephone

2 system, of managing institutional telephone activity, between a calling party and a called

3 party, wherein the calling party is an institutional party and the called party is a non-

4 institutional party, wherein said the method comprises comprising:

5   providing a plurality of calling institutional terminals, a plurality of telephone

6   lines, an administrative database, and an administrative interface, wherein

7   the database comprises an individual account for each calling party and

8   wherein each account provides individual entitlements to each the calling

9   party;

10   placing a communication request to the called party from one of the calling

11   institutional terminals by the calling party, wherein the placing comprises

12   entering numeric data into one of the calling institutional terminals;

13   accepting the communication request;

8

14   identifying the calling party;

15   analyzing the communication request to determine parameters;

16   comparing the parameters with entitlements; and

17   conditionally establishing communication between the called party and the calling

18   party.

1   36.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 35, wherein the method

2   further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

3   providing a digital recording buffer and a digital mass storage device;

4   monitoring the system for active calls; and

5   recording the active calls in the buffer.

1   37.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the

2   recording is continuous.

1   38.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein the method

2   further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

3   monitoring an active call for a fraud detection ~~events~~ event;

4   storing the buffer contents in the mass storage device if the monitoring returns a

5   positive result; and

6   recording the remainder of the active call in the mass storage device if the

7   monitoring returns a positive result.

1   39.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing institutional telephone activity

2   between a calling party and a called party, wherein a calling party is an institutional party and

3   a called party is a non-institutional party, comprising:

4   an interface component configured to accept an external communication request

5   from a calling party, the communication request having at least one called

6   party parameter, and the communication request sufficient to establish

7   communication between the calling party and the called party;

8   a database storing a plurality of accounts associated with calling parties, each

9   account storing permissible calling party parameters for each calling party,

9

10   wherein at least some calling party parameters are based on the calling

11   party's class; and

12   a screening component in communication with the interface component and the

13   database, configured to read each external communication request, query

14   the database for the permissible calling party parameters associated with

15   the calling party and determine whether at least one called party parameter

16   is a permissible calling party parameter and configured to determine

17   whether the calling party has an active account, the screening component

18   denying the calling party's external communication request if the active

19   account determination returns a negative result.

1   40.   (Original) The system of claim 39, further comprising a communications

2   component, in communication with the screening component, and configured to process the

3   communications request following determination by the screening component that the

4   communication request contains permissible parameters.

1   41.   (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein one of the permissible parameters

2   is a telephone number.

1   42.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, further comprising a digital

2   conversion component configured to receive a̲ voice ~~samples~~ sample from the ~~current~~ calling

3   party and convert the voice ~~samples~~ sample to a digital format.

1   43.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the screening

2   component is further configured to perform biometric voice identification on the ~~samples~~

3   sample generated by the digital conversion component and further configured to confirm an

4   identity of the calling party based upon the results of the biometric voice identification.

1   44.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the digital conversion

2   component is further configured store the digital ~~samples~~ sample in a buffer.

1   45.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the database stores the

2   digital ~~samples~~ sample in a ~~files~~ file associated with the caller ~~accounts~~ account.

1   46.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 44, wherein the ~~accounts include~~

2   account includes a suspicious ~~words~~ word associated with ~~each~~ the calling party and the

3   screening component is further configured to scan a digital ~~samples~~ sample for a suspicious

4   ~~words~~ word.